12 Belt and Bag Macrame Designs

WITH KNOT REFERENCE SECTION





This is a sneak peek at our macrame' corner. Karen Sargentich, our creative knotter, made three of the belts and designed the leather bag shown on page 13. Much of the copy for this book came from her corner,

To The Reader ...

"Macramania" is sweeping the country and everyone seems to be getting into the knot-tying act. It's great fun to do and exciting to know that you are actually doing a truly ancient craft that has been around for some 2000 years. Some people have felt there hasn't been enough practical things to make. If you have this feeling, then this book is for you. We show you how to make six handbags and five belts that you'll love to wear or give away.

If you know the ropes and can tie a square knot and a clove hitch this book was designed for you. Just in case you haven't done Macrame' lately and are a little rusty, don't worry because we have included a knot reference section so that you can brush up on the basic knots you'll need for these handbags and belts.

Now, if you are one of the people who hasn't tried Macrame' yet, you should first read our introductory book "Macrame", Start To Finish". It is available in most book and craft stores. In any case start knotting !

Flax belt with blue beads, see page 13. The Peruvian, instructions on page 17. The Brazilian, instructions on page 17.

About Our Book ...

After doing quite a bit of macrame' for our first book, we discovered that we needed fewer instructions to follow a design. So in this book, we have cut down instructions a little, and have enlarged pictures so you can easily "read" the knots which make up the design. We also list the progression of knot patterns in all the projects. But if you are stumped by reading the knots in the pictures, refer to the knot reference section on page 19, which will surely guide you.

Most of the items in this book are made of cotton twine because the knots photograph so clearly. But please feel free to make the projects with another type of cord if you prefer. Colorful silk rattail, nylon seine, flax and dyed string are equally as versatile and fun to work with. Cords are available in a wide variety of sizes as well as colors.

White cotton cord can easily be colored by using any good, all-purpose concentrated dye.

We mustn't neglect some fanfare about the important function beads play in the construction of a macrame' piece. You may choose from natural looking wooden beads to commercially made ceramic, plastic and glass beads. A sampling of the wide variety available is displayed on page 13.

It is a matter of personal preference whether you line your handbags or not. Some bags with open work in the design, are stunning with colored lining showing through. Others with a closed design do not need a lining unless one is desired.

"HANDICRAFTS FOR FUN" Library Craft Consultant, HAZEL PEARSON WILLIAMS

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H-187 Creating Candles CHENILLE CRAFT H-170 Chenille Fun H-240 Beautiful Bump Chenille

H-120 The Art of Decoupage H-177 Decoupage Start To Finish

H-182 Three-Dimensional Decoupage H-205 Picture Sculpture H-231 Antique Art Prints

EGG CARTON CRAFT H-189 Egg Carton Magic H-190 Egg Carton Flowers H-235 Egg Carton Beauties

EGGERY H-202 Exquisite Eggs

H-212 Egg-citing Ideas FABRIC CRAFT

H-112 Nylon Net Novelties H-117 Creating In Felt H-137 Burlap Bounty

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H-203 Make A Magnetic Put-On H-209 Cut and Glue Decor, Foam-Felt H-239 Calico Patch Painting

FLORAL CRAFT H-132 How To Arrange Flowers H-166 Tissue Paper Art

H-188 Beautiful Flowers 'n Things H-198 Preserving Nature's Flowers H-218 How To Arrange Dried Materials

MACRAME' S-100 Handbook of Common Macrame' Knots, .75 PLASTIC CRAFT H-193 Macrame' Start To Finish H-194 Macrame' Designs; Bags and Beits

H-213 Macrame' Hang-Ups H-224 Easy To Make Macrame' Pot Hangers H-228 Macrame' Hangers For Small Spaces

H-233 Macrame' With Small Cords H.234 Macrame' Magic H-236 Square Knot Macrame' Jewelry

MISCELLANEOUS CRAFTS H-115 Fun With Papier Mache' H-119 Fun With Craft Sticks

H-121 Dolls, New and Old, You Can Make H-155 Magic With Marbles H-183 Decorating Ideas For The Year Around H-186 Draping The Kings

H-204 Make A Keepsake Hutch H-207 Driftwood Miniatures H-227 Americana Paper-ware

H-229 Decorating With Collectibles H-230 String Art Mansions H-237 Sand Painting In Decorative Glassware PLASTER CRAFT

H-217 Wonderful World of Plaster Finishing

SHELL CRAFT H-172 Contemporary Shell Craft H-232 Elegant Shellcraft TOLE PAINTING H-141 Decorative Painting

H-160 Casting In Clear Plastic H-225 One-Pour Mirror Finish

H-133 Ribbon Straw Handicrafts

H-185 Magic With Ribbon Straw

H-200 Folded Magazine Novelties

H-201 Bottle Cutting and Decorating

H-223 Bloomin' Aluminum Flowers

H-114 Magic With Tin Cans

H-171 Plastic Bottle Fun

H-208 Plastic Masquerade

H-206 Decorative Quilling

H-216 The Art of Quilling

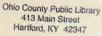
QUILLING

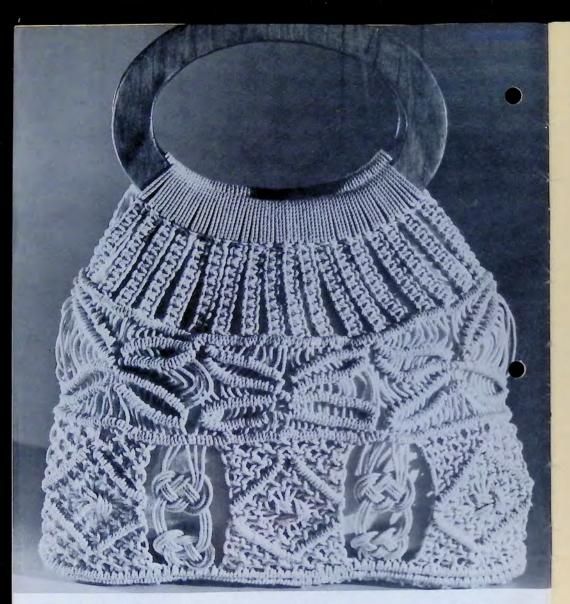
RIBBON STRAW

SCRAP CRAFT

H-219 Easy To Paint Folk Designs H-220 Tole-Style Decorative Painting H-221 Tole-Style Decorative Design

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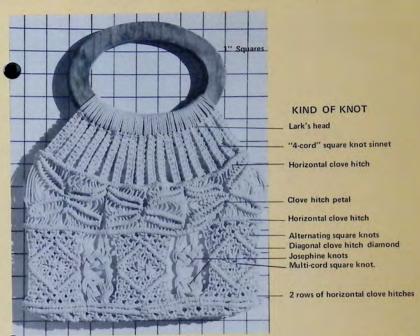
The Guadalajara

This bag gets the nod to the knotty look. It is 10" x 9" and the impressive designers pattern is set off beautifully by the wooden handles. This bag can be exquisitely hand-fashioned by you to enjoy yourself, or share with another.

MATERIALS

328 yds. No. 18 cotton twine 7"x 5" oval wooden handles or 41/2"x 6" plastic handle

Cut 72 cords 41/2 yds. each for knotting bag. Cut four cords 28" each to be used for horizontal knot-bearers around bag.



GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- 1. Tie thirty-six Lark's heads onto a handle using 41/2 yd. cords.
- 2. Use groups of four cords to tie eighteen square knot sinnets. Continue until each sinnet is a series of nine knots.
- 3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 with the other handle.
- 4. Now join the front and back sections together. Add a 28" cord as knot-bearer, and circle the bag with a row of horizontal clove hitches. Join the cord ends 1" away from where panels meet.
- 5. Continue knotting center section of bag as shown.
- 6. Add another 28" knot-bearer. See step 4 for details.
- 7. Continue bottom panel as illustrated. Add two more rows of horizontal clove hitches using 28" cords for knot-bearers.
- 8. For bottom of bag tie two rows of alternating square knots on each side. See photo below. Next fasten bottom seams together by working on the inside of the bag. Tie square knots using only two cords; one from each side.
- 9. Line bag in material of your choice.

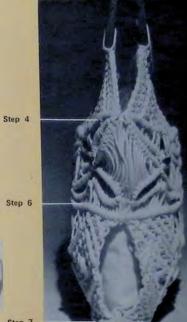


101/2" place on fold

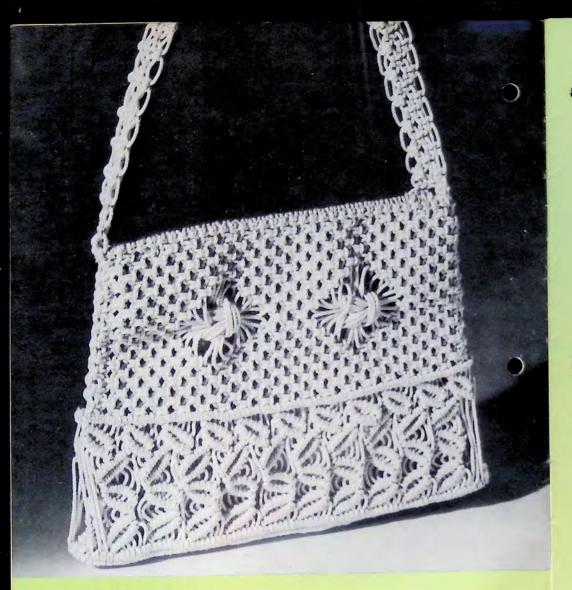
Pattern for lining bag.

Below: Portion of the bottom of the bag

Below: Side view of bag.







The Jalisco

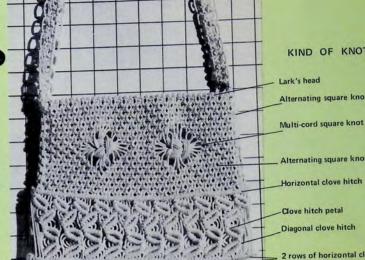
This 91/2"x 7" bag is as pretty as it is practical, and makes casual, sport, or dress-up fashions fun. This bag definitely has a knack for looking lovely with its panel of decorative knots around the bottom. A shoulder strap makes it a real "swinger".

MATERIALS

234 yds. No. 18 cotton twine 8" x 12" piece of heavy cardboard

Cut 76 cords 2-2/3 yds. each for knotting bag. Cut 2 cords 28" each to be used for horizontal knotbearers around bag.

Cut 4 cords 12" each to be used for horizontal knotbearers for each side.



KIND OF KNOT

Alternating square knots

Multi-cord square knot

Alternating square knots

2 rows of horizontal clove hitches

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

1. Tie and pin a 28" cord around the top of a 8"x11" piece of heavy cardboard. Use this piece as the holding cord and tie 76 Lark's heads onto it using 2-2/3 yd. lengths of cord. Position 38 for the front, and 38 for the back. First tie one side and then the other.

2. Tie alternating square knots for approximately 4". Knot two multi-cord square knots in the front and back panel as illustrated. 3. Add a 12" cord as the knot-bearer and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches on the front. Repeat on back.

4. Tie clove hitches as shown in picture.

5. Add a 12" cord as the knot-bearer and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches on the front, and repeat on the back.

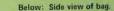
6. To make the bottom, add a 28" cord and knot a row of horizontal clove hitches completely around the bag. Finish by tying square knots with sets of 2 cords on the inside of the bag. Clip ends and

7. Now the front and back panels are drawn together by weaving 2 cords each 20" in and out of the square knots on both sides. Tie ends of knot-bearers together. Conceal ends and glue.

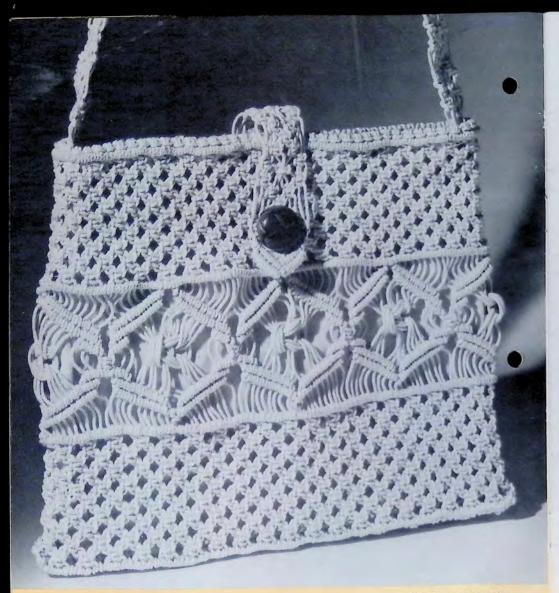
8. For shoulder length handle, tie 4 Lark's heads onto one side of the bag using 6-2/3 yd. lengths of cord. Tie alternating square knots until desired length; approx. 30in. Weave ends into other side, clip and glue.

Below: Portion of bottom of bag







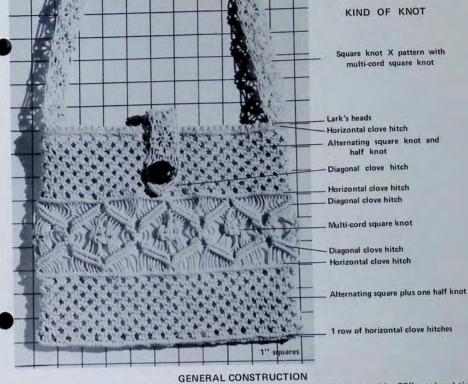


The Acapulco

This distinctive macrame' design makes a most attractive 11" x 9" handbag for the galon-the-go. Interesting shoulder strap and buttoned latch add charm and practicability.

MATERIALS 315 yds. No. 18 cotton

twine 9%"x 13" piece of heavy cardboard 1" button Cut 80 cords, 3 yds. each for knotting bag. Cut 3 cords 28" each to be used for horizontal knotbearers around bag. Cut 12 cords 4 yds. each for shoulder strap. Cut 12 cords 2 yds. each for latch.



1. Tie and pin a 28" cord around the top of a 9\(^4\)"x 13" piece of heavy cardboard. Use this length as the holding cord and tie 80 Lark's heads onto it using 3 yd. lengths of cord.

2. Add another 28" cord as a knot-bearer and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches completely around the bag, snug against the Lark's heads.

3. Tie 9 rows of alternating square plus one half knots. Add another 28" cord and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches. Tie diagonal clove and square knot patterns as shown, then tie a row of horizontal clove hitches using another 28" cord as the knot-bearer.

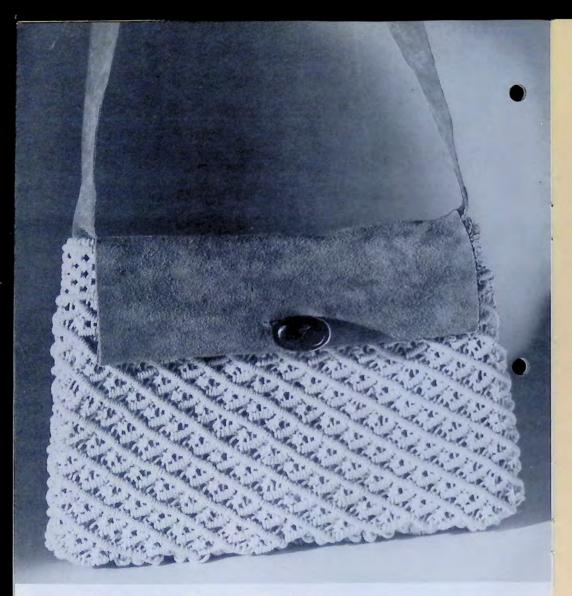
Tie 9 more rows of alternating square knot and one half knot. 5. To make the bottom, add a 28" cord and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches completely around the bag. Finish by tying square knots with sets of 2 cords on the inside of the bag. Clip ends and glue.

6. Pin 12 cords 2 yds. long to working board for 5½" latch. Make 3 four cord square knots. Tie 3 square knot X patterns connected with multi-cord square knots. Leave floaters after the last X for the button hole, and knot diagonal clove hitches to make tapered end.

7. Repeat using 4 yd. cords for strap repeating square knot X pattern with multi-cord square knot center.







The Mazatlan

This heavily knotted handbag is attractive and most interesting with its repetitive pattern of alternating square knots and diagonal clove hitches. A soft leather flap and shoulder strap add accent. It is 11"x 7" in size.

MATERIALS

303½ yds. No. 18 cotton twine 9%" x 14" piece of heavy cardboard 9" x 4½" soft leather 1½" x 38" soft leather

Large wooden button

Cut 100 cords each 3 yds. for knotting bag. Cut 4 cords 28" each to be used for horizontal knotbearers around the bag. KIND OF KNOT

Lark's head
Horizontal clove hitch

Alternating square knots
Horizontal clove hitch

Square knot

Diagonal clove hitch

1" squares

6. Bottom of bag: Remove cardboard as 9%"x 14" piece of heavy cardboard. Use these thru the top and tie square knots on the square knots on

1. Tie and pin two 28" cords around the top of a 9%"x 14" piece of heavy cardboard. Use these pieces as the holding cord and tie 98 Lark's heads onto it using 3 yd. lengths of cord. 2. Add another 28" cord as a knot-bearer and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches completely around the top of the bag, snug against the Lark's heads.

Tie 5 rows of alternating square knots. In the last row, add one 3 yd. cord on each side. See Fig. A. There are now 200 working cords.
 Add another 28" cord as a knot-bearer and

tie a row of horizontal clove hitches.

5. The remainder of the bag is tied using groups of ten cords and features alternating square knots and diagonal clove hitch X patterns. See Knot Reference Section.

6. Bottom of bag: Remove cardboard. Reach thru the top and tie square knots on the inside using sets of 6 cords from each side. Hide ends, clip and glue.

7. Sew 4½"x 9" soft leather flap to front and 1½"x 38" leather strap into place.



Fig. A To add on cords, tie the first half of the square knot, then lay the middle of the cord to be added over the fillers and under the knotting cords. Complete the second half of the square knot.

Right: Bottom of bag showing square knots tied with sets of 6 cords.





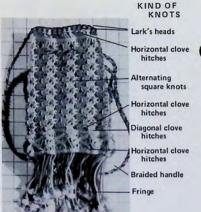




Photo showing the bottom of the bag.

The Ensenada

MATERIALS: 185 yds. of No. 48 cotton twine 5-3/8 in. diameter circle of 1/8" masonite

- 1. Tie a 28 in. holding cord around the top of a 5½ in. diameter can or other round object.
- 2. Fasten 48 cords, each 3½ yds. long, to the holding cord. If using color, arrange as desired. Move the Lark's heads evenly along the cord leaving about ¼ in. space between.
- 3. Add a 3 yd. cord and tie 48 alternating Lark's heads onto the holding cord to finish top edge. See alternating Lark's head braid pattern on page 23.

- 4. Continue by tying alternating square knots with sets of 4 cords. Work circularly around the can, row by row. Tie until 7½ in. deep.
- Add a 28 in.cord as a knot-bearer and tie a row of horizontal clove hitches around the bottom. Next make a diagonal clove X pattern. Add annother 28 in. cord for the bottom row of horizontal clove hitches.
- 6. Remove can. Use a masonite circle 5-3/8 in. in diameter for the bottom of the bag. Leave a 5 in. fringe and tie overhand knots on each cord. Braid a 5 ft. handle. Cut and hide all loose ends.
- Drill 6 holes around edge of masonite circle and secure to bottom row of clove hitches.



THIS IS AN IDEA PAGE ONLY.

Hand-crafted ceramic beads, bright gay glass beads or natural-toned wooden beads will add distinctive accent to your macrame'. To make the interesting flax belt featuring blue monkey beads, shown above, tie a square knot sinnet using alternating filler cords. See the bottom of page 22 for knot. Colored glass beads are fun to tie to the fringe of a handbag or wooden beads can be used on a leather bag trimmed with macrame.



The San Miguel

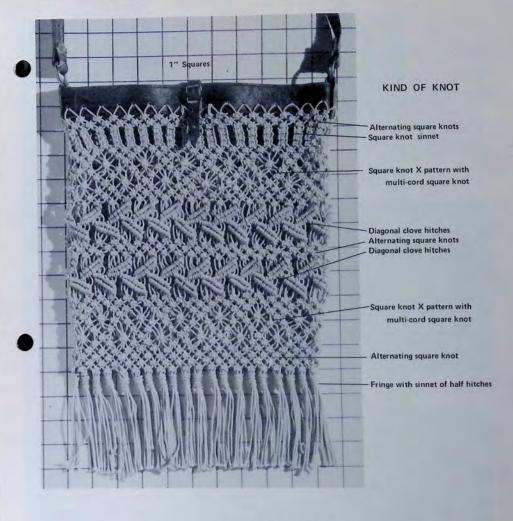
The natural accent of leather is used in this 10%" x 15" bag along with the cord to achieve its overall casual appearance. It can be left plain or lined with any gay material and a whole new look can be achieved.

MATERIALS

234 yds. No. 18 cotton twine 11%"x 16" piece of heavy

11%"x 16" piece of heavy cardboard 2%"x 24" leather for top of bag %" x 36" leather for strap %" x 5" leather for latch %" x 1%" leather for latch %" buckle 6 rivets

2 1¼" rings Cut 78 cords 3 yds. each for knotting bag.



GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- Double leather to 1-1/8" and machine sew along the top and bottom edge. Punch 39 holes approximately 5/8" apart, and %" from the top edge of the leather. Pin around cardboard.
- 2. String 2 cords thru each of the holes so that each doubles.
- Begin by tying alternating square knots and square knot post pattern as shown in picture.
 Knot square knot X pattern with multi-cord
- square knot as shown in picture.
- Next, tie diagonal clove hitches, and alternating square knot pattern as shown in picture.
 Finish the main design with the square knot
- X pattern with multi-cord square knot.

 7. To tie bottom fringe, tie a sinnet of half hitches, see page 23, around sets of cords.
- 8. Attach strap as shown or as desired.

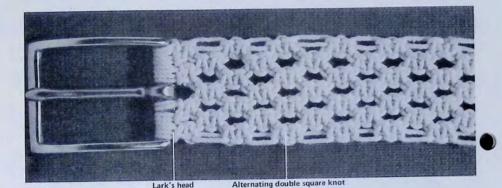
Macrame' Belts

Macrame' belts are the pride of every fashion conscious gal and guy today. Belts can be knotted from a variety of cords, such as cotton twine, colorful silk rattail, nylon seine twine, or linen. Belts can be made to wear around the hips or waist — with a fringe or buckle.

For belts with fringed ends, cut cords $4\frac{1}{2}$ times the belt length. When Lark's head knots are

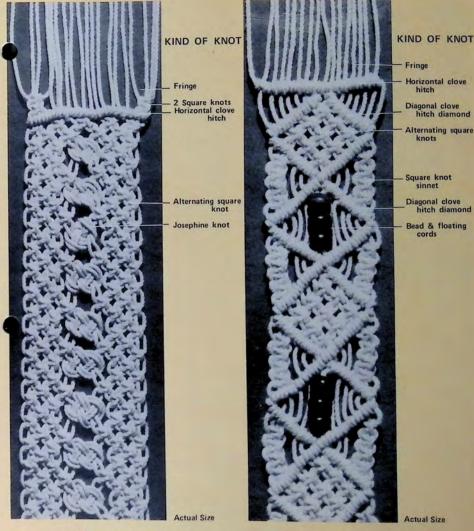
tied onto a buckle, the cord lengths should be 9 to 10 times the desired length since the cords are folded in half over the buckle.

Beads add a colorful touch, and can easily be strung into the knot sinnets making interesting original designs. See the knot reference section on page 19 for knot details.



The Americana

This belt is popular with gals and guys who want a traditional yet "mod" look. The repetitive design of double alternating square knots is especially interesting. To start, cut 8 cords of No. 18 cotton twine each 10 times the length of the belt. Fold each cord in half and tie 8 Lark's heads onto the buckle. To end the belt, make double alternating square knots, then 2 and then 1. Cut the ends and weave them back into the belt.



The Brazilian

The beautiful Josephine knots tied down the center, are complimented by the open space around them, and contrast with the solid bands on each side. To make, cut 20 cords of No. 12 cotton twine each 4½ times the length of the belt. Leave 18 in. unknotted for fringe before starting to knot.

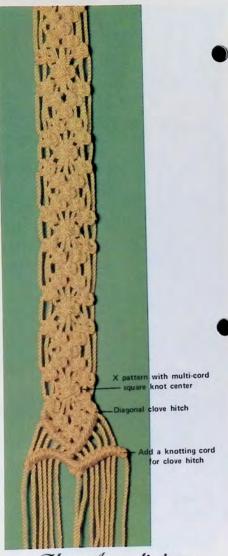
The Peruvian

This belt, studded with bright wooden beads, is fun to make and attractive to wear for the "now" look with sport clothes. To make, cut 16 cords of No. 15 cotton twine, each 4½ times the length of the belt. Leave 18 in. unknotted for fringe before starting to knot.



The Ecuadorian

This belt, made by knotting a double alternating Lark's head braid, see page 23, is accented with wooden beads. To make, cut 6 cords of silk rattail each 3 times the length of the belt. Leave 18 in. unknotted for fringe before starting to knot.



The Argentinian

This colorful belt will brighten up any outfit. It features square knot X patterns connected with multi-filler square knots. Cut 12 cords of No. 18 nylon seine twine each 4 times the length of the belt. Leave 18 in. unknotted for fringe at both ends.

Knot Reference Section

Basic Macrame' Knots are on pages 19 and 20. Macrame' Knot Patterns are on pages 21 thru 23.

Basic Macrame' Knots

These are the basic knots used to make the handbags and belts in this book. Often, in the project there will be more than a single cord used for knotting. This changes the appearance but don't be confused for it is still the same basic knot. Likewise a knot looks different when several fillers or knot-bearers are used together. Look at the drawings under square knots for examples.

OVERHAND KNOT







LARK'S HEAD Holding cord

Reverse Lark's head

HALF-KNOT





Right-hand half knot

SQUARE KNOT







Right-hand square knot using two filler cords.





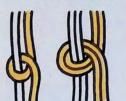


Left-hand square knot using six filler cords



Left-hand square knot using four knotters and two filler cords

HALF HITCH



Half hitch using a single and two knotting cords around two filler cords.

REVERSE CLOVE HITCH



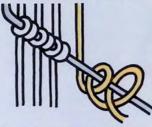
Reverse clove hitch or Lark's head

VERTICAL CLOVE HITCH



Has many vertical knot bearers and one knotting cord.

DIAGONAL CLOVE HITCH



Has one knot bearer and several knotters. Knots follow the direction of the diagonal knot bearer.

HORIZONTAL CLOVE HITCH



Knots follow the direction of the horizontal knot bearer.









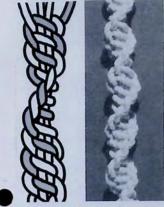


Knot Patterns

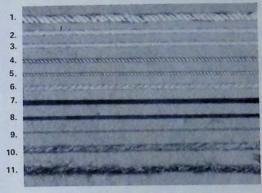
This section illustrates how the square knot, clove hitch and Lark's head each can be used in a repetitive pattern to create interesting chains,

braids or sinnets. These patterns or combination of patterns are used to form designs for handbags and belts.

HALF KNOT SINNET



Sinnet forms a twisting design while it is being tied.

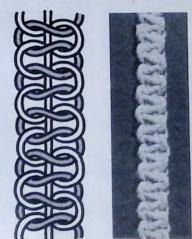


CORD CHART ---- Actual Size Shown

- 1. No. 48 cotton twine
- 2. No. 18 cotton twine
- 3. No. 15 cotton twine
- 4. No. 18 nylon seine twine
- 5. No. 15 nylon seine twine
- 6. Craft cord
- 7. No. 2 silk rattail
- 8. No. 1 silk rattail
- 9. 2-ply beeswax thread
- 10. 60-6 flax
- 11. 4-ply jute

VARIATIONS USING SQUARE KNOTS

SQUARE KNOT SINNET





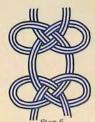
Sinnet of interchanging filler cords and knotters.

JOSEPHINE KNOT

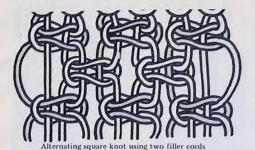




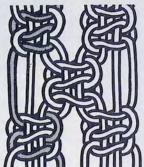




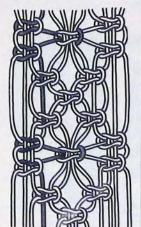




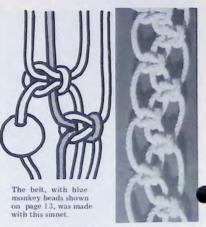






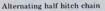


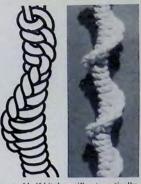
Square knot X pattern with a square knot spacer. This makes an interesting shoulder strap; see page 8.



Sinnet of alternating filler cords.



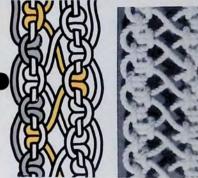




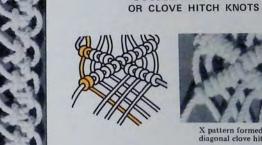
Sinnet of half hitches will automatically form a twisting pattern.



DOUBLE HALF HITCH



Double alternating Lark's head braid

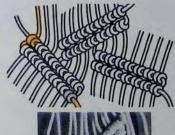


X pattern formed by diagonal clove hitches.





Chevron pattern formed by diagonal clove hitches.





Criss-cross pattern formed by diagonal clove hitches.

H-194

12 Belt and Bag Macrame' Designs

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